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October 18, 2022

Norman Utilities Authority receives \$15,000,000 loan from OWRB for water meters

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Norman Utilities Authority (Authority) received approval for a \$15,000,000 loan Tuesday from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to improve the Authority's water metering infrastructure. Upgrades to the system will be financed by the Oklahoma Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF).

The Authority will utilize the proceeds to replace approximately 40,000 water meters and the electronics required to automatically transmit meter readings to the Authority across its service area. Most of the meters are read manually and a large portion of the utility's meters are nearing or past the expected life span. This project helps to meet Oklahoma's Water for 2060 goals by focusing on water conservation through a reduction of unintended flows to the wastewater treatment plant.

Joe Freeman, Chief of the OWRB's Financial Assistance Division, calculated that the Authority's customers will save an estimated \$1,442,900 over the life of the 17-year loan compared to traditional financing. The CWSRF loan will be secured with a lien on the revenues of the Authority's water, sewer and a mortgage. Norman Utilities Authority's officials attending the OWRB's monthly meeting in support of the loan application included Anthony Francisco, Finance Director and Chris Mattingly, Utilities Director.

The CWSRF program is administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board with partial funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The CWSRF program has



provided approximately \$2.3 billion in water quality loans to provide communities the resources necessary to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our valuable water resources statewide.

Since 1983, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board has approved over \$6 billion in loans and grants for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements throughout Oklahoma.

"We are grateful to State Legislators from the Norman metro area for their support of our financial assistance programs," said Julie Cunningham, Executive Director of the OWRB.

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